Amendments to the Claims

Kindly cancel claims 1-8.

Kindly add new claims 9-15.

1-8 (Cancel)

9. (New) A method for producing a heat resistant high-chromium containing ferrite steel based on ferritic phase and containing 13 % by weight or more of chromium, and containing precipitates of intermetallic compounds, which method comprises hot working bulky steel derived from a melt raw materials, and annealing the hot worked steel.

10. (New) The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the annealing comprises heating at 1000°C or more and cooling in a furnace.

11. (New) The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the intermetallic compound is at least one precipitate selected from the group consisting of a Laves phase, a μ phase , a σ phase, and a compound represented by Ni_3X, where X is Al or Ti.

12. (New) The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the ferritic phase is contained at 70 % by volume or more.

13. (New) The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein Mo is contained at 0.5 % by weight or more and W is contained at 1.0 % by weight or more.

14. (New) The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein Co is contained at 1.0 % by weight or more.

15. (New) The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the ferrite steel has a following chemical composition (weight %):

Cr	13 - 30
Mo	0.5 - 8.0
W	1.0 - 8.0
Co	1.0 - 10.0
C	0.50 or less
N	0.20 or less
B	0.01 or less
Nb	0.01 - 2.0
Fe	residue

and may contain inevitable impurities.